

Around the Services

Compiled by SSG John Valceanu



Kelly Schumacher's family portrait won the fifth Armed Services YMCA art contest.

MCA Announces Art Contest Winners

Springfield, Va. — Twelve-year-old artist Kelly Schumacher took first prize in this year's Armed Services YMCA art contest by entering a winning drawing of herself clutching two puppies and standing next to her Coast Guard father, her mother and sisters.

A 7th grader, the budding artist is the daughter of Capt. and Mrs. Kevin Schumacher of St. Louis. She receives a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond prize, and her artwork will appear on

this year's ASYMCA Military Family Week poster. Her 9-year-old sister, Katie, was the Coast Guard runner-up.

Others recognized for their work include: Ariana A. Christina, age 8, from Fort Jackson, S.C.; Allison Leonard, age 11, from Naval Air Station Point Mugu, Calif.; Karen Nicholson, age 9, from Randolph Air Force Base, Texas; Angelica A. Gates, age 11, of Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C.; National Guard's Peter Gogolouchko, age 5, of Los Alamitos, Calif.; and Da'Von Brooks, age 10, son of a Department of

Defense civilian from Newport News Shipyard, Va.

The Armed Services YMCA and the GEICO Insurance Co. cosponsor the art contest to promote the annual Military Family Week observance, held this month. The week is dedicated to recognizing the contributions and sacrifices of military families in support of their service member. — *Andree Swanson, Armed Services YMCA*

Seabees Build Bridges of Friendship

Tartu, Estonia — Navy Seabees and Estonian soldiers used the Partnership for Peace Exercise Cornerstone 00-2 to build bridges — one made of metal, and the other of goodwill and friendship. The August exercise was intended to develop a common understanding of peace-support operations between the two nations. It was a two-phase joint and combined exercise.

During Phase I, Army National Guard soldiers and Marine Corps Reservists conducted combat engineering training with Estonian engineers and other units, and

Latvian and Lithuanian engineers. During Phase II, the Seabees worked with Estonian units on projects including the construction of a bridge, renovation of a kitchen facility for the homeless, construction work at an orphanage and assembly of two camp shelters.

The crew of the Poltsamaa bridge project consisted of active-duty Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 in Gulfport, Miss., and Naval Reserve Seabees from



A Seabee helps an Estonian man get his bicycle across a makeshift bridge during Cornerstone 00-2.

NMCB 24 in Huntsville, Ala. They worked with Estonian soldiers of the Tartu Single Infantry Battalion. — *Lt. Cmdr. Kim Dixon and Lt. Pat McGovern, Cornerstone 00-2 Public Affairs Office*

Oldest Female Veteran Dies at 103

Washington — Frieda Mae Hardin, the nation's oldest female veteran, died in August at age 103 in a nursing home in Livermore, Calif. Hardin, and thousands of women like her, paved the way for future women to serve in the U.S. armed forces.

Hardin joined the Navy as a yeomanette in September 1918 and served until March 1919. More than 12,000

Rudi Williams



Frieda Mae Hardin, then 101, spoke at a 1997 event at Arlington National Cemetery.

Accompanied by her son, Jerald Kirsten, a retired Navy captain, Hardin spoke during the 1997 dedication ceremonies for the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at the gateway to Virginia's Arlington National Cemetery. She addressed a

women served in the Navy during World War I as clerks, stenographers, telephone operators, recruiters, draftsmen and camouflage designers.

crowd estimated at more than 30,000.

"In my 101 years of living, I have observed many wonderful achievements, but none as important or as meaningful as the progress of women in taking their rightful place in society," Hardin said at the dedication.

Hardin survived four husbands and is survived by a daughter and three sons. All her sons served in the military. — *Rudi Williams, American Forces Press Service*